

Message Text

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11

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAM-01

SAJ-01 IO-11 /072 W

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R 120815Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9400

INFO AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY LISBONPUEO

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

US MISSION NATO BRUSSELS 807

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OVIP, PO

SUBJECT: VISIT OF PORTUGUESE FOREIGN MINISTER

1. AT NATO AMBASSADORS LUNCH JAN 8 PORTUGUESE AMBASSADOR COLACO REPORTED ON VISIT TO CZECHOSLOVAKIA JAN 15-16 OF PORTUGUESE FOREIGN MINISTER ANTUNES.

2. COLACO HAD RATHER LITTLE TO ADD TO KNOWN FACTS THAT VISIT WAS AT CZECH INITIATIVE AND PLANS FOR VISIT WERE LONG-STANDING. AFTER PREVIOUS POSTPONEMENT ORDER WAS CHANGED SO THAT NOW BUDAPEST VISIT PRECEDED PRAGUE. FOREIGN MINISTER CHNOUPEK HAD ASKED ANTUNES TO STAY LONGER SO AS TO SEE MORE OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA, BUT ANTUNES REFUSED BECAUSE HE IS DUE TO BE BACK IN LISBON JAN 18 AND PLANS TO ATTEND MEETING OF PORTUGUESE AMBASSADORS IN VIENNA JAN 17. HE WAS PERSUADED TO FLY DOWN TO BRATISLAVA EVENING JAN 16 TO SEE SOMETHING OF SLOVAKIA. TIME FOR SUBSTANTIVE TALKS IS RELATIVELY BRIEF, APPARENTLY ABOUT FOUR HOURS.

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3. COLACO SAID AIR AGREEMENT WAS TO BE SIGNED AND COMMUNIQUE ISSUED. HE SAID CZECH SIDE HAD JUST GIVEN HIM NEW DRAFT OF COMMUNIQUE WITH SOME CHANGES BASED ON PASSAGE OF TIME SINCE LAST POSTPONEMENT, BUT THAT COMMUNIQUE WAS ESSENTIALLY VERY STANDARD. HE ALSO SAID THAT BECAUSE OF LACK OF FACILITIES (COLACO IS STILL INSTALLED IN HOTEL), ANTUNES WOULD NOT BRIEF NATO AMBASSADORS AS IS USUAL CUSTOM WHEN NATO FONMIN COMES TO PRAGUE. (COMMENT: WE DO NOT KNOW IF LACK OF FACILITIES IS ONLY REASON. PRESUMABLY CZECHS WOULD PREFER THAT USUAL NATO GET-TOGETHER NOT TAKE PLACE, BUT WE DO NOT KNOW IF TOPIC WAS DISCUSSED BETWEEN CZECHS AND PORTUGUESE. COLACO PROMISED TO GIVE BRIEFING AT NEXT NATO AMBASSADORS LUNCH.) PERRY

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